(b) if so, the number of such doctors with their clinics that have been raided during the last one year; and

(c) whether Government propose to bring out a legislation imposing hefty penalty on fake doctors and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir. However, cases against 10 persons who had applied to Delhi Bhartiya Chikitsa Parishad on the basis of fake qualifications have been reported to the police.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An Anti Quackery Bill is under consideration of the Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

Provisions already exist in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970, and Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973, to take action against unregistered practitioner of medicine. However, to make deterrent provisions, Central Government initiated steps to formulate a model legislative proposal but no final view has been taken.

Recognition for alternative medical therapy

1320. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2785 given in Rajya Sabha on 18th August, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Acupressure, Acupuncture had been recognized at alternative medical therapy by WHO, Europe, China, Japan, UK, USA and Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons and scientific basis under which the Standing Committee of Experts constituted by Government did not recognize Acupressure, Acupuncture as alternative medical therapy, when they had recognized even Yoga and Naturopathy as alternative medical therapy;

(d) whether the practice of Acupressure, Acupuncture in treating patients has been banned in the country; and

(e) if not, the reasons for harassing practitioners of Acupressure and Acupuncture by police in several parts of the country specially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Acupressure and Acupuncture have been recognized as Alternative Medical Therapy by the Western World. WHO does not play any role in recognizing a System of Therapy.

(c) to (e) The Standing Committee of Experts set up by the Government has *inter alia* recommended that certain practices such as Acupuncture and Hypnotherapy which qualified as modes of therapy, could be allowed to be practiced by registered practitioners or appropriately trained personnel. These can be conducted as certificate courses for Registered Medical Practitioners to adopt these mode of therapy in their practice whether Modern or Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy.

Contaminated food items

1321. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the studies conducted by organisations like the ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research), ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research), and NGOs like the CERC (Consumer Education Research Centre), the CSE (Centre for Science and Environment) have shown that artificial colours, pesticides and insecticides are increasing in our every day foods;

(b) whether it is a fact that a recent ICMR report showed that 51 per cent of foods in the country were contaminated with pesticides of which 20 per cent had levels exceeding the Maximum Tolerance Limit (MTL); and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Different institutions in the country conduct studies on harmful effects of pesticides and chemicals. However